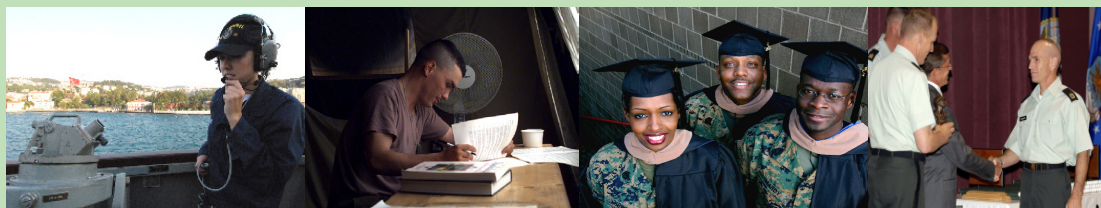


www.dantes.doded.mil

November 2009, Number 394



Worldwide Education Support to the Department of Defense

## Technology - The great distance learner enabler

*Why, then, the world's mine oyster, Which I with sword will open.* William Shakespeare, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Military students. Multiple time zones. One class. On the ground, in the air, on and below the sea.

From self-paced instruction to interactive distance learning spaces where students can meet, share and collaborate in an online environment, the world "has truly become an oyster for Service members around the world," according to Betty Keese, Distance Learning Program Manager at DANTES.

Technology is the great enabler of today's distance learning experience, providing Service members with convenience, accessibility, and ease of use as they pursue their education goals, anytime and anywhere. CD-ROMs, DVDs, PDAs, iPods, USBs and even Smartphones are all devices that allow students to receive information, to listen to course materials more than once and, in some cases, record and edit materials that can be shared with others or used for assessment purposes.

Coastline Community College's personal digital assistant (PDA) courses were initially created for submariners without the ability to take classes online, but in need of a compact device to deliver course content. Sailors like Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW) Russell Cole

have found success using a PDA to complete coursework with Coastline. Cole said, "I have taken two self-paced courses without the PDA and two with the PDA. By far, the PDA gives you more structure because it has a timeline to follow...I could take

vast collection of 2500 multimedia learning objects.

The University of West Florida (UWF) offers a program for students to develop Arabic language and cultural understanding skills in listening, reading, speaking, and



*Coastline Community College Virtual Campus*

it home or to lunch. I would even take it on the ride to work."

Dallas TeleCollege is another college that uses mobile learning devices that include iPods to deliver courses, including a pilot program with the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). One of the ways that Dallas is able to engage and enrich student learning experiences is through their Digital Resource Repository, a

writing through the use of a small ultra-portable mobile computer. While students complete large amounts of the coursework without access to the Internet, key is the collaboration software with use of Webcams and microphones to allow students and the instructor to interact, similar to being in a room together. As one student said, "The live online assessment and

# Naples Navy College Office and UMUC open National Test Center

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Michael Campbell, NPASE-E Det. Europe

The Navy College Office and the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 25 at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples Capodichino installation to commemorate the opening of the new National Test Center.

The center will offer electronic delivery of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DSST, Excelsior College Examinations (ECE), and a variety of Pearson Vue-delivered exams. Pearson Vue offers many IT exams in support of the DoD 8570.01 directive, professional credentialing exams, and the computer adaptive Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

The center is equipped with computer modules that can process a student's exam and give an almost immediate response on most exam results.

"Instead of waiting weeks to find out results and then waiting to determine what course to sign up for, now students can come in, take their test and get immediate results," said Capt. John Picker, commanding officer of the Center for Personal and Professional Development.



*Dr. Allan Berg, Vice President and Director of University of Maryland University College cuts the ribbon to Naval Support Activity Naples new National Test Center as Cmdr. Stephen Schutt, NSA Naples executive officer (left) and Capt. John Picker (right), commanding officer of the Center for Personal and Professional Development hold the ribbon.*

## DANTES sponsored Health Fair



*Left to Right: Dr. Jeff Cropsey, Jacqueline Straughn, MCPO Zernick*

DANTES recently sponsored a Health Fair for Saufley Field. Joe Whittington of the DANTES staff and Jacqueline Straughn of NETPDTC organized the Health Fair that attracted over 300 participants and over 20 health professionals.



*Left to Right: Joe Whittington, Jacqueline Straughn*



## Want the DIB sent directly to your e-mail?

If you would like to have the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) sent monthly to your e-mail, click on the icon above or send an e-mail to [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

## Former Navy College Regional Director dies

Grace Parfitt passed away Oct. 9 in New Haven, Conn, after a lengthy illness. Parfitt, who retired in Jan. 2002, had worked for the Navy College Program for over 25 years serving in Bermuda, the Northwest, London, England, Newport, R.I., and Groton, Conn. At the time of her retirement, she held the position of Regional Director for the Northeastern U.S. and Europe.



# DANTES to conduct regional workshop in San Diego

Mark your calendars to attend the DANTES Regional Workshop on Jan. 26-28, 2010 in beautiful, sunny San Diego, Calif. The 3-day workshop will include updates on testing, credentialing, VA benefits, basic skills tools, military course evaluations, distance learning, counseling resources, and more.

DANTES periodically conducts these workshops in various regions around the U.S. to provide information and updates about DANTES programs. The workshops are targeted to Education Service Officers (ESOs), counselors, and others who represent the military voluntary education community, along with representatives from colleges who provide degree programs to our Service members. The focus of the workshop is to promote a better understanding and utilization of the voluntary education programs managed by DANTES.

This free workshop will be held at the Courtyard Marriott – Liberty Station in San Diego. Registration info and more details will be posted soon on our Regional Workshop web page at [http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes\\_web/training/regwkshps.htm](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm). For more information, e-mail [dantestraining@navy.mil](mailto:dantestraining@navy.mil).

## It's easier than ever to excel!

DANTES now offers Service members a new tool to use in their education quest. The Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) is designed for individuals who want to build a solid foundation for educational and career advancement by improving their math and verbal skills. Strong skill sets in these academic areas help individuals score well on exams, advance their education, and excel in their careers. OASC will diagnose the individual's current level of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math abilities, and then teaches concepts and skills needed to increase proficiency in these academic areas.

The course engages learners through a wide range of learning styles to enhance the experience of every user. The easy-to-use interactive interface reinforces learning while providing a personalized experience that makes learning productive and rewarding.

OASC includes a Pre-Test, skill-based math, reading comprehension, and vocabulary lessons; and Post Tests. The course generates a Customized Learning Path based on the results of a Pre-Test. Each individual receives a personalized set of lessons designed to improve their weaknesses and build their strengths. The lessons for each course contain 20-minute segments on a variety of related topics. Interactive flash cards with audio build vocabulary while engaging students in the learning process. Lessons include detailed descriptions of answer explanations, examples, and quizzes to reinforce learning.

OASC is free, with unlimited, 24/7 access to all Service members (active duty, Guard, and Reserve) and their family members.

OASC is currently available on Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.com>), the DANTES Web site (<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>) and the individual Service education web portals, i.e. AKO, NKO, etc.

Build your skills. Ace your exams. Advance your career.

## DANTES Halloween/CFC victory celebration - Command donates \$4300



Winner of VIP Passes to Blue Angel Air Show Left to Right: Victoria Street receives passes from Dr. Jeff Cropsey (alias "Dr. Disco")



Winner of Best Female Costume Left to Right: Angela Cola receives award from Dr. Jeff Cropsey



Winner of Best Male Costume Left to Right: Van Kirkland receives award from Dr. Jeff Cropsey

# DANTES Examinations Program

## Excelsior College retires several exams

The following exam forms have been retired, effective immediately. If your DANTES test site has any of these recalled exam booklets shown in the table below, PLEASE RETURN THEM IMMEDIATELY. When ordering replacement exams, please use the new Excelsior College Test Materials Order Form 2009-2010 that is posted on-line under the DANTES EMIS Web site.

Retired Code/Form	Exam Title	Replacement Code/Form
412 AA1, BA1, CA1	Social Psychology	412 DA1, EA1
461 EB1, FB1	Nursing Concepts 1 (non-stocking)	None <sup>1,2</sup>
462 CB1, DB1	Nursing Concepts 2 (non-stocking)	None <sup>1,2</sup>
463 EA1, FA1	Nursing Concepts 3 (non-stocking)	None <sup>1,2</sup>
464 CA1, DA1	Nursing Concepts 4	None <sup>1,2</sup>
465 AB2, BB2	Nursing Concepts 5	None <sup>1,2</sup>
466 CA1, DA1	Nursing Concepts 6	None <sup>1,2</sup>
467 EB1, FB1	Nursing Concepts: Foundations of Professional Practice	None <sup>1,2</sup>
485 CAZ, DAZ	Psychology of Adulthood & Aging	485 EA1, FA1
488 DA1 (only)	Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Safety	488 DB1
509 CA1, DA1	Religions of the World (non-stocking)	None
512 AA1, BA1, CA1	World Conflicts Since 1900	512 DA1, EA1
545 AA1, BA1	Cultural Diversity	545 CA1, DA1
583 CB2 (only)	Life Span Developmental Psychology	583 CC2

<sup>1</sup>Nursing Concepts exams are available only to students who enrolled in the Excelsior College Associate Degree program in Nursing on or before Sept. 30, 2007. Students who seek licensure in the state of Ga. and who are preauthorized by the Excelsior College School of Nursing will have until Dec. 31, 2009 to finish their nursing examination requirements by using the current Nursing Concepts exams. Please contact Excelsior College at [dfax@excelsior.edu](mailto:dfax@excelsior.edu) for assistance in confirming GA student authorization to use Nursing Concepts exams between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. Nursing Concepts exams will be available for preauthorized Ga. students on a non-stocking basis, through the established exam order process.

<sup>2</sup>All unenrolled nursing exam candidates or candidates who have not completed the nursing examination requirements of the Excelsior College Associate Degree program in Nursing by Sept. 30, 2009 (Dec. 31, 2009 for authorized Ga. students, as described above) must use the Essentials of Nursing Care (Health Safety, Health Differences, Chronicity and Reproductive Health, 488-491), Health Differences Across the Life Span 1, 2 and 3 (492-494) and Transition to the RPN Role (495) exams to fulfill the ADN examination requirements. Unenrolled nursing exam candidates should contact the Excelsior College Nursing Admissions Unit at [NSGADM@excelsior.edu](mailto:NSGADM@excelsior.edu) with any questions about the Excelsior College nursing degree curriculum or the use of previously-earned credit toward completion of an Excelsior College nursing degree. Enrolled EC nursing students should contact the academic advisors in the Excelsior College School of Nursing at [NSGADVISOR@excelsior.edu](mailto:NSGADVISOR@excelsior.edu) with any questions about completion of their degree requirements.

## New answer sheet for Excelsior College exams

The two -age maroon and white Excelsior College answer sheet (NCS Pearson EM-226642-5:6543) was retired on Sept. 30, 2009. The answer sheet is being replaced by the orange and white Answer Booklet that Excelsior College has been shipping with exam orders. Excelsior will process exams administered on maroon and white answer sheets through Dec. 31, 2009. Excelsior will not process exam results for any tests administered after Dec. 31, 2009 on the retired forms.

Please note that the orange and white forms can be used immediately to administer Excelsior College Examinations. The following Excelsior College Examinations can be administered only with the orange and white Answer Booklets:

Essentials of Nursing Care: Chronicity (490)  
Community Focused Nursing (546)  
Life Span Developmental Psychology (583)

## CLEP Study Guide

The 2010 Edition of the CLEP Study Guide is available to DANTES Test Sites on the DANTES Web site for DANTES TCOs and ATCOs who have established a username and password account in the Exams Management Information System (EMIS). Several of the Services have also included these study guides on their knowledge online systems. Copyright provisions allow for local reproduction and/or installment on an installation network by your technical support personnel. If installed on the installation's network, access must be limited to on-base personnel only. Encourage prospective examinees to review the study guide for the respective test before taking the actual CLEP General or Subject test. Each study guide contains sections relating to Knowledge and Skills Required, Sample Test Questions, and Study Resources. Following the recommendations in the "Preparing for Taking CLEP Tests," in conjunction with the study guide, can assist examinees to determine their readiness for taking CLEP tests and prepare them to be successful.

## GEDs new test forms for CY 2010

DANTES Test Sites: If you currently stock GED Batteries, you will receive, starting in mid-January 2010, Forms IG, IH, and IB for use beginning January 2010. These are the new GED test forms for calendar year 2010. The 2009 forms you currently stock, ID, IJ and IK cannot be administered after December 31, 2009 and must be returned to GED Testing Service after that date. Any 2009 GED test form administered after Dec. 31, 2009 yearly program close out will not be scored.

## Kuder® Journey replaces the Kuder Career Planning System

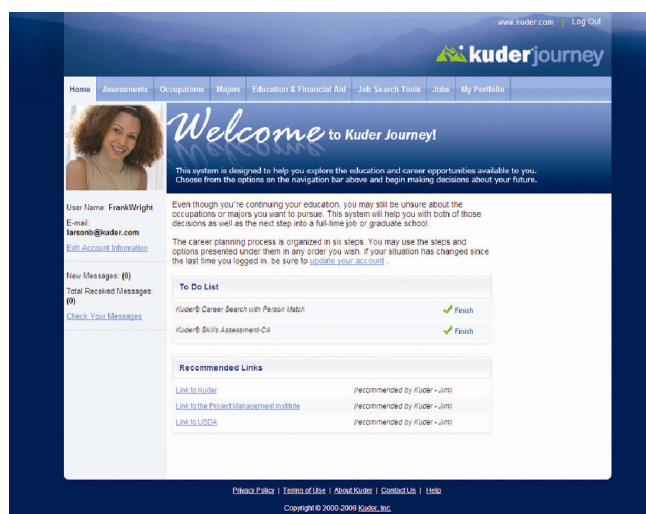
Kuder Journey is a new, intuitive career planning system designed to address the needs of military members and offers flexible and ongoing access through a completely Internet-based format.

Journey includes a variety of comprehensive and user-friendly tools to help the military member through career and degree planning. It enables users to explore new career directions, consider education and training, and seek current opportunities. The information is uniquely tailored to each user based on how they register with the system and identify their occupational background.

The system's lifelong career portfolio stores information generated by the user and encompasses their progress through the system. From this information, users can develop an electronic portfolio (e-Portfolio), a web page of achievements and goals that can be shared online with prospective employers and education institutions.

Military members can input scores from their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score report. Journey uses these scores to provide occupations for users to consider. Additionally, Journey combines ASVAB scores with other completed assessments to suggest and narrow a list of occupations.

To learn more about Journey, e-mail [counseling@navy.mil](mailto:counseling@navy.mil).



## Allied American University visited DANTES

Roy Winter, President and CEO of Allied American University recently visited DANTES and discussed AAU programs with Dr. Jeff Cropsey.



*Left to Right: Roy Winter, Dr. Jeff Cropsey*



# Practice tests are powerful tools to improve scores for academic tests and exams

“I get really nervous when I take tests,” says a recent user of Peterson’s test preparation resources on the Department of Defense MWR Libraries Education Lifelong Learning Resource Center web site. “I think that having a practice test online helps a lot; it gets you out of the freeze zone.”

This sentiment describes the anxiety most people feel as they think about taking a standardized test. The feedback from this user also illustrates one of the main benefits of online practice tests. Whether it’s a college entrance exam, like the SAT or ACT, or a DSST or CLEP test, knowing what to expect on the real test is the first step to overcoming test-taking anxiety. There are numerous practice tests on the DOD MWR site - 106 online practice tests and 17 paper printable practice tests.

The practice tests are proven to help people get into their comfort zone and improve their test scores.

Here are the top five ways people can take advantage of the power of practice tests.

## Learn the test’s format

In order to ensure success, it’s critical to get familiar with the format of the test you are planning to take. The practice tests are designed to be just like the real tests, so you learn exactly what types of questions you will be asked to answer.

## Practice your pacing

You’ll have a set amount of time to answer a group of questions on any given test, so you need to develop the habit of not spending too much time on any particular question. The practice tests help you do this by simulating the real test-taking experience with timed sections for every test.

## Develop a study plan

You’ll get the most out of a practice test if you use the results to develop a study plan. The practice test provides detailed explanations for each question, so as you review your test results, you’ll find out where your strengths are and identify areas where you need to improve.

## Calm your nerves

Practice tests will help you get to your comfort zone. On test day you’ll know the types of questions that are asked, the subject matter the questions cover, and the amount of time you have to spend on questions.

## Practice makes perfect

The more you rehearse, the better your test scores will be. Use the multiple practice tests provided to see your progress from one test to another. Learn from the answer explanations as much as possible and you will see your confidence soar which will translate into better test scores.

For more information about practice tests and online courses available at no cost to military personnel, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.com> ( > tools > career and education > libraries > dod/mwr libraries) or <http://www.us.army.mil>, <http://www.nko.navy.mil>, <http://www.my.af.mil>, or <http://www.myarmyonesource.com>.



### November 2009

5, 10, 12 – ASE (CONUS and overseas)  
8-14 – GRE Subject\*  
14-18 – Praxis\*

### December 2009

5 – LSAT (50 U.S. states, Canada, Caribbean, Europe and Africa)  
6 – LSAT (Asia, Australia and New Zealand)

### January 2010

5 – LSAT (50 U.S. states, Canada, Caribbean, Europe and Africa)  
6 – LSAT (Asia, Australia and New Zealand)  
15 – ECE Extended Response (Essay)  
9 -13 – Praxis\*

### Notes:

– Overseas test sites send orders six weeks before the test date.  
CONUS test sites send orders four weeks before the test date.  
Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

\*Choose only one day to administer. Submit separate Prometric order forms for GRE Subject and Praxis.

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/examinations/exams\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/exams_calendar.pdf)

# Technology - The great distance learning enabler

## (continued from front)

willingness of the instructor to schedule practice sessions, are what make this course stand out from simply self-studying the text.”

In May 2009, DANTES launched a pilot program that uses MP3 players to deliver language instruction in one of seven languages: Arabic-Iraqi, Chinese-Mandarin, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Tagalog, or Korean. Responses to the program indicate kudos for portability and convenience, however some users appear to miss the interaction that UWF and other programs have.

Coastline Community College’s Military Programs Manager, Shawn Mann, said that, “One of the latest things at Coastline is that we are using Second Life to create virtual simulations for enhanced student experience and learning.” Coastline was awarded a grant to create a Second Life environment for nursing students to be able to interact with instructors and BOTS (automated response robots) which act as patients in a medical clinic. “Any number of different scenarios can be developed to accommodate Army medics to Navy Corpsmen,” he said.

Coastline’s future includes a “World Café and Mall” where students “throughout the world have the opportunity to meet and communicate in different languages,” according to Mann.

DANTES partners with several hundred distance learning institutions that offer thousands of courses and numerous degree programs, listed in three DANTES distance learning catalogs. Keese said, “Distance learning makes education opportunities available to Service members, anywhere and anytime. Along with the education benefits offered by the military, the world is there for their taking.”

Online demo of Coastline Community College’s Virtual Campus is available at <http://dlmedia.ccc.cccd.edu/ms100/VirtualCampusDemo.wmv>.

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European Advisor	011-49-6202-80-6008		<a href="mailto:dantes@eur.army.mil">dantes@eur.army.mil</a>
Pacific Advisor	808-449-8862		<a href="mailto:dantes.pacific@hickam.af.mil">dantes.pacific@hickam.af.mil</a>
<b>Troops to Teachers</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b><a href="mailto:ttt@navy.mil">ttt@navy.mil</a></b>
<b>Education Support</b>	<b>3133</b>	<b>1162</b>	
Military Evaluations/ SOC/MIVER	3164	1162	<a href="mailto:ace-soc@navy.mil">ace-soc@navy.mil</a>
WW09 Symposium	3126	1588	<a href="mailto:dantesww@navy.mil">dantesww@navy.mil</a>
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<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>3124</b>	<b>1161</b>	
Examinations	3245	1160	<a href="mailto:exams@navy.mil">exams@navy.mil</a>
Distance Learning	3129	1161	<a href="mailto:DantesDL@navy.mil">DantesDL@navy.mil</a>
Tuition Assistance	3130	1161	<a href="mailto:tahelp@navy.mil">tahelp@navy.mil</a>
Credentialing/ Certification	3194	1005	<a href="mailto:certprog@navy.mil">certprog@navy.mil</a>
<b>Distribution Center</b>	<b>452-1082</b>	<b>1140</b>	<b><a href="mailto:dist@navy.mil">dist@navy.mil</a></b>